Prescription Painkiller Overdoses PSA (:60)

It's an increasingly common story. A woman found in her home, dead of a prescription drug overdose. It happens about 18 times a day in the U.S. Prescription painkiller overdoses are an under-recognized and growing problem among women.

Health care providers should:

- Recognize that women *can* be at risk of prescription drug overdose and follow guidelines for opioid prescribing.
- Screen and monitor for substance abuse and mental health problems.
- Prescribe only the quantity of painkillers needed, based on the pain diagnosis.
- And use patient-provider agreements and urine drug tests for people on prescription painkillers for a long time.

Women are advised to take medicines only as prescribed and not sell or share them with others. They must be stored in a secure place and disposed of properly.

If you need help for a substance abuse problem, call 1-800-662-HELP.

Learn more at cdc.gov/vitalsigns.